

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Wedge, at 5:30 PM. The following members were present:

Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Chair  
Mrs. Marjorie Levesque

Ms. Karen Gleason  
Mr. Richard Carpender  
Mr. David Croston, V. Chair

Mr. Douglas Wilkey, Clerk  
Mrs. Terri Cortvriend\*  
(\*Exec. Session Only)

Also Present: Dr. Lusi and Asst. Supt. Jermain

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exception (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted. Public Session ended at 5:37 PM and resumed at 7:05 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Ms. Wedge announced that an Executive Session was held at 5:30 PM, and no votes were taken. A motion was duly made and seconded to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. So voted 6-0.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi stated that Staff Orientation went well on Monday, and school opens tomorrow. Regarding the Physics First program, she reported that we had a savings of \$37,000. She thanked Asst. Supt. Jermain, Mr. Schoonover and the PHS Science Department, as well as the EBEC staff and Governor's office. She announced that we are losing our School Resource Officer and the DARE program as a result of budget cuts, and cuts to other youth organizations are also being considered. Dr. Lusi announced that the Melville Water Town has been torn down, and the path to Melville Housing has been cleared and is open. She thanked the Portsmouth Water and Fire District for their assistance with this issue. She reported that we are working with Middletown on ways to share technology services and resources. She also reported that she is handling all questions pertaining to bus routes this year. When an issue of safety arises, she consults the Police Department. She is holding the line on bus stop changes and is advising parents of their rights to appeal her decisions. Dr. Lusi informed the Committee that she has been called for Jury Duty starting September 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - a) Teaching and Learning: Asst. Supt. Jermain reported on Professional Development activities that took place for three days during the week before school started at Portsmouth High School and Portsmouth Middle School. At the high school, there were twenty-one teachers and as many as 30 teachers who attended the co-taught workshop in the morning. At the middle school, there were as many as forty-two teachers who attended the co-taught workshop. Both sessions were very successful. Common planning time has been provided for the teachers by the principals, and we will have follow-up sessions every six weeks with the teachers. Those teachers came in on their own time, and we will provide additional workshops for the teachers who were unable to attend the sessions. It is part of the initiative to ensure that all children have access to a

rigorous curriculum. The other Professional Development that took place was Literacy training for all K through Grade 8 teachers. This was mandated by the State in order that all teachers are informed of the new regulations in literacy. The high school teachers will have small sessions that Denise Dvorak will provide during their department meetings. All teachers are required to attend the Literacy training. This includes guidance counselors, nurses, applied arts teachers, etc., because the State wants everyone to know that literacy is everyone's initiative and should be addressed in all classes. The elementary teachers also had Professional Development in the area of math, and the math lead teachers reviewed the pacing charts for the year. That session was also very successful. At the high school level, Julie Bisbano reviewed Senior Project with all teachers and the responsibilities of all teachers to get their students prepared for Senior Project. Gail Darmody introduced a new software program to the teachers that enables them to take student work and determine if it is original. It also enables students and teachers to make sure they are following proper research citations and writing formats. All of the high school teachers were given copies of the NEASC report to review and comment upon for the NEASC team. It was a very successful day.

- b) Finance and Operations: Dr. Lusi reported that we are continuing to closely examine the budget. Determining actual projected expenditures on salary and benefits will be a primary focus now that the majority of our staff has been hired.

### 3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 8, 2006. So voted 6-0.

### 4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Items c) through j) were moved to the Business Agenda for discussion.

- a) **Custodial Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee accepts the resignation of Ned Mathis, Custodian at Melville School, effective August 10, 2006."
- b) **Request for Approval – Unpaid Leave of Absence (Maternity).** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the request of Teacher #1-8/29/06, to take an unpaid leave of absence for maternity purposes, as proposed."
- c) **Appt. – Grade 7 ELA/IDW/SS Teacher, .5 time, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-8/29/06, to the position of Grade 7 ELA/IDS/SS Teacher, .5 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, for the 2006-07 school year."

- d) **Appt. – Grade 5 Teacher, .5 time, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #3-8/29/06, to the position of Grade 5 Teacher, .5 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, for the 2006-07 school year."
- e) **Appt. – Reading Teacher, PMS/PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #4-8/29/06, to the position of Reading Teacher, half-time at Portsmouth Middle School and half-time at Portsmouth High School, for the 2006-07 school year."
- f) **Appt. – Grade 6 Teacher, .5 time, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #5-8/29/06, to the position of Grade 6 Teacher, .5 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, for the 2006-07 school year"
- g) **Appt. – Modern Language Teacher, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #6-8/29/06, to the position of Modern Language Teacher (Portuguese) at Portsmouth High School, for the 2006-07 school year."
- h) **Appt. – General School Aide, Elmhurst School.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #7-8/29/06, to the position of General School Aide at Elmhurst School, for the 2006-07 school year."
- i) **Appt. – Department Chairs, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee approves the Department Chair appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2006-07 school year, as listed."
- j) **Coaching Appt. - PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the coaching appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2006 fall season, as presented."
- k) **Approval of Requests for Permission to Home School.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the requests to provide home schooling for the 2005-06 school year for students HS#1 through HS#4-8/06, as listed in the confidential memo dated August 24, 2006, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2."

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve Items a), b), and k) as presented. So voted 6-0.

5. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

Items c) through j) were moved from the Consent Agenda.

- c) **Appt. – Grade 7 ELA/IDW/SS Teacher, .5 time, PMS.** A motion was duly made and seconded to affirm the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-8/29/06, to the position of Grade 7 ELA/IDS/SS Teacher, .5 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, for the 2006-07 school year. So voted 6-0.
- d) **Appt. – Grade 5 Teacher, .5 time, PMS.** A motion was duly made and seconded to affirm the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #3-8/29/06, to the position of Grade 5 Teacher, .5 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, for the 2006-07 school year. So voted 6-0.
- e) **Appt. – Reading Teacher, PMS/PHS.** A motion was duly made and seconded to affirm the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #4-8/29/06, to the position of Reading Teacher, half-time at Portsmouth Middle School and half-time at Portsmouth High School, for the 2006-07 school year. So voted 5-1. Ms. Gleason was opposed.
- f) **Appt. – Grade 6 Teacher, .5 time, PMS.** A motion was duly made and seconded to affirm the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #5-8/29/06, to the position of Grade 6 Teacher, .5 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, for the 2006-07 school year. So voted 6-0.
- g) **Appt. – Modern Language Teacher, PHS.** A motion was duly made and seconded to affirm the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #6-8/29/06, to the position of Modern Language Teacher (Portuguese) at Portsmouth High School, for the 2006-07 school year. So voted 6-0.
- h) **Appt. – General School Aide, Elmhurst School.** A motion was duly made and seconded to affirm the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #7-8/29/06, to the position of General School Aide at Elmhurst School, for the 2006-07 school year. So voted 6-0.
- i) **Appt. – Department Chairs, PHS.** A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the Department Chair appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2006-07 school year, as listed. So voted 6-0.
- j) **Coaching Appt. - PHS.** A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the coaching appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2006 fall season, as presented. So voted 6-0.

Dr. Lusi announced the following appointments:

- c) Tara Jagmin, Grade 7 ELA/IDW/SS Teacher, .5 time, PMS (Step 1)
- d) Suzanne Hole, Grade 5 Teacher, .5 time, PMS (Step 3)
- e) Patricia Lynch, Reading Teacher, PMS/PHS (Step 6)
- f) Caroline Fletcher, Grade 6 Teacher, .5 time, PMS (Step 2 Masters)
- g) Luis Nunes, Modern Language Teacher, PHS (Step 3)
- h) Lisa Adam, General School Aide, Elmhurst School
- i) Department Chairs, PHS:
  - o Applied Arts Diane Creese
  - o English Camille Frankel
  - o Fine Arts Kristen Heynan
  - o Mathematics Margaret Prior
  - o Modern Language Suzette Almeida-Louro
  - o Physical Education Michael Medeiros
  - o Science Jeffrey Schoonover
  - o Social Studies James Betres
  - o Special Education J. Peter Dugan
  - o Library/Media Kimberly Lavoie
- j) Coaching Appointments - PHS
  - Re-appointments:
    - o Mike Medeiros Head Coach Girls Tennis
    - o Joel DeMarco Assistant Coach Football
  - New Appointments:
    - o Steve Trezvant Volunteer Boys Cross Country
    - o Mike Vieira Volunteer Football
    - o Mike Galvin Assistant Coach Boys Soccer
    - o Elizabeth Smith Assistant Coach Girls Soccer
    - o Rosie Sosnowski Head Coach Girls Cross Country
    - o Tim Ryan Head Coach Boys Cross Country

- a) **Report on Elementary Enrollment.** Dr. Lusi gave a brief presentation on the current elementary enrollment.
- b) **Discussion/Action – FY’07 Budget.** Discussion took place regarding the FY’07 Budget, however, no votes were taken. Mr. Carpender announced that a Finance Subcommittee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2006, and public comment will be accepted.
- c) **Agenda Item Requests.** Requested by Mr. David Croston.
  - 1. A motion was duly made and seconded to recognize Portsmouth United for Education, a booster overlay organization, and accept their pledge of support for student athletics and extra-curricular education. So voted 6-0. Mr. Croston announced that he will take himself off the board of Portsmouth United on the advice of legal counsel.

2. Request for Approval and Adoption - Revisions to Policy #5134 – Sale of Goods at Athletic Contests, as proposed. (This item was sent to the Policy Subcommittee for review.)
3. Request for Approval and Adoption - Revisions to Policy #3460 – Financial Returns from Athletic Events, as proposed. A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the revisions to Policy 3460 and waive the second reading. So voted 6-0.
4. Motion to earmark 50 percent of the existing funds in the Gate Receipt account to the Operational Fund. (This item was withdrawn from the agenda by Mr. Croston.)
- d) **Request for Approval to Seek Waivers from the Rhode Island Department of Education.** A motion was duly made and seconded to authorize the School Committee Chair to seek waivers from the Rhode Island Department of Education for the purposes of budget relief. So voted 6-0.
- e) **Review/Approval – July Financial Statements.** A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the July financial statements as presented. So voted 6-0.

6. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a) **Finance:** See above.
- b) **Gymnasium Construction Oversight Committee (GCOC):**
  - 1) **Approval of Progress Payment for Gym.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston to approve the progress payment of Invoice #05-095-00009 from Advanced Building Concepts in the amount of \$400,278.92. Seconded by Mr. Carpenter. So voted 6-1. Ms Gleason was opposed. (This item was previously approved at the August 8, 2006, meeting.) Mr. Croston announced that the gym is expected to be delivered to the school on September 13, 2006.
- c) **Fundraising:** Mr. Croston announced that parents and teachers of Portsmouth High School raised \$4,800 for the gym with a tennis round robin held in late August. Twenty-eight women competed in doubles matches, raising \$2,800. A cocktail party held at the Loffredo home raised an additional \$2,000.
- d) **Prudence Island School Working Committee:** Mr. Carpenter reported that the replacement of the flat roof is complete. The main roof has been re-caulked. The school was bell was also fixed. Dr. Lusi has the names and contractor licenses of the individuals who performed the work.

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn back into Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation; or (a)(8) Student Discipline. Public Session recessed at 9:26 PM and resumed at 10:15 PM.

Ms. Wedge announced that an Executive Session was held and one vote was taken on a legal matter, which passed 4-2. Mr. Wilkey and Ms. Gleason were opposed. A motion was duly made and seconded to seal the minutes. So voted 6-0.

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. So voted 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for

Douglas Wilkey, Clerk